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19th May 1936.

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL.

My dear Robertson,

During the past week certain facts have come to my knowledge on which I would be grateful to have your comments.

About a month ago I am informed that the Soviet Authorities approached the Public Safety Bureau with the request that certain Soviet citizens should be issued permits to carry arms, as it was the wish of the Soviet Embassy to take steps to safeguard the couriers which travel between the Soviet authorities in Shanghai and Nanking. I am further informed that the third of these couriers to disappear did so last Thursday, consequent upon which the advisability of applying for arms permits to the Shanghai Municipal Police is now under consideration by the Soviet Authorities.

The above circumstances are of additional significance in view of the fact that I have heard rumours that during the last week a Korean subject was forcibly arrested by the Japanese Consular Police in the International Settlement. If this story is correct, and if the arrest was made without the knowledge of the Shanghai Municipal Police there appear to be grounds for the fears which the Soviet Authorities are entertaining.

Arising out of all this I should be extremely grateful if you would let me know, for my personal information, if you have received, through your channels, any confirmation; and also if you would be good enough to let me know, if and when the Soviet Authorities make any application for arms permits to the Municipal Police.

Please regard this communication as strictly personal
and secret.

Yours Sincerely,

Wm. J. F. L.

T. Robertson Esquire.,
Special Branch,
Shanghai Municipal Police,
Foochow Road.
Shanghai.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

SECRET

Section 2, Special Branch
REPORT

Date. May 28, 1936.

Subject Re. attached letter.

Made by and Forwarded by D. S. I. Coyne

With reference to the attached letter informing the Officer i/c Special Branch of the disappearance of three Soviet couriers and of the steps taken by the Soviet Embassy for the future safety of couriers travelling between Shanghai and Nanking, I have to report that no confirmation of this information has been obtained.

No application has been made by the Soviet Authorities for arms permits, either to the Shanghai Municipal Police or to the Bureau of Public Safety, nor have these organs heard of an untoward incident of the nature described involving a Soviet national.

In view of the fact that Commander Lepin, Soviet Military Attache at Nanking, attended the meeting of Soviet Officials in Shanghai on May 16 to consider what steps should be taken regarding the protection of couriers, it is probable that the matter would be taken up at Nanking with the Ministry of War. It is on the authority of this organ, and not that of the local Bureau of Public Safety, that arms permits are issued.

It is doubtful whether any application would be made to the Shanghai Municipal Council for arms permits, as the Embassy couriers carry diplomatic passports and enjoy diplomatic immunity.

Concerning the statement contained in the letter to the effect that a Korean was forcibly arrested by the Japanese Consular Police in the Settlement without the knowledge of the Settlement Police, should such an incident have occurred it has not yet come to the notice of the Police.

It is possible, however, that the case referred to is

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station,
Date. 19

Subject

Made by

Forwarded by

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that which occurred at 1.30 a.m. on May 15 when four armed members of the Japanese Consular Police gained entry to the home of a Korean named Den Sho Koku at No. 12, Lane 5, Hart Road, and attempted to take him away. This man's wife reported the affair to Bubbling Well Police Station and on the arrival of a party of Police, the Japanese Consular Police stated that they did not wish to arrest Den, but only wanted him to accompany them to the Consulate where he was to be questioned on a confidential matter. Den refused to go with them on the grounds that they had no jurisdiction over him as he had renounced his Japanese nationality and acquired Chinese nationality.

As the Japanese Consular Police refused to leave the premises Den eventually agreed to accompany them, and when released twelve hours later he informed his wife that he had been questioned regarding the Korean Independence League, of which he is a member.

His wife has since stated that the arrest of her husband was brought about by his brother, with whom he is not on friendly terms.

Den Sho Koku is a pilot officer in Chinese Air Force, attached to the First Squadron at Nanchang, and at the time was on leave, having arrived in Shanghai on May 11 from Hangchow. Immediately after his release he returned to Hangchow to take an aeroplane he had left there for repairs back to Nanchang.

According to information received on May 27, Den has not yet forwarded any report on this incident to his Commanding Officer at Nanchang.

J. Boyne

Officer i/c Special Branch.

D. S. I.